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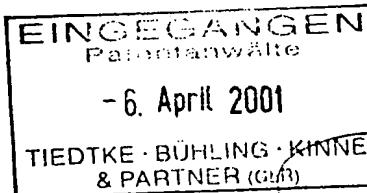
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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire
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COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract

title

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1



REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 955 174 A (HEWLETT PACKARD CO) 10 November 1999 (1999-11-10)	1,8,15, 16,18	B41J19/14 B41J2/14
Y	* column 2, line 54, paragraph 23 - column 12, line 1; figure 7 *	2	
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D, X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 008, no. 069 (M-286), 31 March 1984 (1984-03-31) & JP 58 215352 A (CANON KK), 14 December 1983 (1983-12-14) * abstract *	1	
Y	US 4 528 576 A (MITZUSAWA NOBUTOSHI ET AL) 9 July 1985 (1985-07-09) * figure 7 *	2	
A	US 5 367 324 A (NISHIKAWA MITSUTAKA ET AL) 22 November 1994 (1994-11-22) * column 7, line 33 - column 8, line 23; figures 5,20 * * column 18, line 34 - line 44; figure 25 *	2,8	
A	WO 91 08902 A (SPECTRA INC) 27 June 1991 (1991-06-27) * page 9, line 16 - page 10, line 27; figure 3 *	8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) B41J
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
1	Place of search THE HAGUE	Date of completion of the search 28 March 2001	Examiner De Groot, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 12 8014

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

28-03-2001

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